



**STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR**
20301 MAIL SERVICE CENTER • RALEIGH, NC 27699-0301

April 21, 2011
Contact: Chris Mackey
Office: (919) 733-5612

Unilever to Bring 65 Jobs to North Carolina's Hoke County
State Grant Helps Company Expand in Raeford

RALEIGH – Gov. Bev Perdue today announced that Unilever, one of the world's largest consumer products companies, will expand its manufacturing facility in Hoke County with the creation of 65 jobs and an investment of \$35 million during the next three years in Raeford. The project was made possible in part by a \$195,000 grant from the One North Carolina Fund.

"Our hard-charging job creation strategy is focused on more than bringing new companies into North Carolina," Gov. Perdue said. "Companies like Unilever that already have operations in North Carolina see that we are pushing policies that maintain our strong business climate, skilled workforce and excellent training programs. They feel at home expanding here."

Unilever's Raeford facility currently employs 275 and manufactures a mix of deodorants, body washes and shampoos under the brand names Dove, AXE, Caress, Suave and Degree for the North American market. The project will upgrade the facility to increase manufacturing and processing capacity and flexibility for Unilever's personal care business.

Salaries will vary by job function, but the average annual wage for the new jobs will be \$39,605 plus benefits. The Hoke County average annual wage is \$25,324.

"Our Raeford facility will make effective use of this generous grant by providing the necessary training to our new hires as part of our site expansion," said Georgia Szewczak, Raeford supply leader. "We are very grateful for the support of the One North Carolina Fund program to further drive our own competitiveness in the market as well as provide jobs and additional tax revenue to the local region."

The One NC Fund provides financial assistance, through local governments, to attract business projects that will stimulate economic activity and create new jobs in the state. Companies receive no money up front and must meet job creation and investment performance standards to qualify for grant funds. These grants also require and are contingent upon local matches.